

Dear members of the media the following is a statement on me stepping down from my position as chair of house education.

I start this statement by saying I made a mistake and I take full responsibility for that mistake. Towards the end of the legislative session, I developed strong feelings for a member of the legislative staff and proceeded to spend a lot of time outside of the capitol with this person for a few weeks.

Although in my personal view I equate this relationship to have been no more than a mutual high school crush. I understand that rumors tend to proliferate within the Capitol and this incident is viewed as disrespectful to the House of Delegates as a body and to other West Virginians. Therefore, even though no policies were violated, I voluntarily stepped away from my position as Chair of House Education at Speaker Hanshaw's request. I have the utmost respect and admiration for him as Speaker and for the entire legislature and did not want to bring any further drama into the legislative process at a time when we need to be focused on what's truly important, improving the everyday lives of all West Virginian's.

As I stated, I take full responsibility for this incident and would ask that the media be respectful of the privacy and possible harm to other parties involved.

Delegate Danny Hamrick